

True Lies

Acts - Part 8 Acts 4:32 - 5:11
Noah Largent 6/19/22



Below the Surface

A. Up to this point, the opposition to the Church comes from the outside. Now a new and more destructive opposition to the Church arises and it comes from within. ***How does dishonesty affect a Marriage? Relationship with Kids? Coworkers?***

Ephesians 4:25 "put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor of the truth because we belong to each other"

B. There is a danger in seeking approval from others rather than God. It can cause us to misrepresent what is true in order to make ourselves look good or deter us from saying what we ought to because we fear what others will think of us.

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

C. The pursuit of money and its power can be corrupting! 1 Timothy 6:10 For **the love of money is the root of all evils.** Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains.

Money is a tool and test.

a. It's a **TOOL** to be used for God's purposes in your life.

b. Money **TESTS** our character, values, priorities, and responsibilities. (Dan Wilvers "What Not to do With Your Money" 5/30/10)

1. God's Power in and through us & the Church

In life we face a similar choice as Ananias and Sapphira. God's way or ours. **When we follow God's way, we (and the Church) can experience God working in and through us in an amazing way!** There is no other way to get the real thing. We can't experience God's powerful presence in our lives by charting our own path in life. We can't have it both ways.

If we watch with excited fascination as the early church does wonderful healings, stands up to the bullying authorities, makes converts left and right, and lives a life of astonishing property sharing, we may have to face the fact that if you want to be a community which seems to be taking the place of the temple of the living God, don't be surprised if the living God takes you seriously, seriously enough to make it clear that there is no such thing as cheap Grace and some sins have to be dealt with. N.T. Wright "Acts For Everyone" Part 1 pg.80



Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. In 4:36 we are introduced to Joseph who is known in the rest of the book by his nickname, "Barnabas" meaning, "son of encouragement". What nickname would (did) people give you? (Pick one that is faltering and another that is not so flattering)
3. 1 Tim. 6:10 says, "*the love of money is the root of all evils*". How would you define your relationship with money? What do you (or can you) do to be a good steward of it?

Notes:
